

REMARKS

Claims 16, 18-23 and 40 were previously pending in this application. By way of this amendment, Applicants are canceling claims 16, 18-23 and 40 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 46-62 have been added. Support for these new claims can be found in the specification at least on page 8, line 28 thru page 9, line 16 as originally filed. As a result, claims 46-62 are pending for examination with claim 46 being independent. No new matter is being introduced by way of this amendment.

Claims 16, 18-23 and 40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Runaldue (U.S. Patent No. 6,128,654) hereafter "Runaldue."

Applicant has cancelled claims 16, 18-23 and 40 without prejudice or disclaimer. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 16, 18-23 and 40 should be withdrawn. Applicant reserves the right to file those claims in a continuation application.

However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant has added new claims that are believed to be patently distinct from Runaldue. Referring now to Applicant's specification, disclosed embodiments provide transferring a plurality of pointers to a memory to establish a linked list. For example, a plurality of packet pointers, stored in packet pointer entries in a cache row, may be transferred to memory. The cache row may have twelve packet pointer entries and each packet pointer entry may be 17 bits wide, where the bits are transferred on cache row data. Only one transfer cycle is required to transfer these twelve packet pointers to a packet vector. While one cache row is waiting to be transferred to a packet vector, further packet pointers can be transferred in other cache rows. Thus, a packet pointer is individually transferred to a packet pointer entry, where the packet pointer entry includes a plurality of packet pointers. Subsequently, the packet pointer entry is written to a packet vector in a single transfer cycle. The transferred plurality of pointers (packet vector) is then used to establish a linked list. (See Specification, page 8, line 28 – page 9, line 8; Fig. 3; page 3, lines 13-15).

In contrast, Runaldue provides a rules checker using a buffer manager for obtaining a free buffer pointer. This free buffer pointer represents a location in external memory at which the frame will be stored by a receive FIFO (queue). Once the free buffer pointer is obtained, the buffer pointed to by the free buffer pointer is considered in use. Next, frame data is transferred to the external memory and a frame data location is stored within this free buffer pointer.

(Runaldue, Col. 7, lines 5-18.) The free buffer pointer may then be transferred to an appropriate transmit FIFO to retrieve the data from the pointer memory location. (Runaldue, Col. 7, lines 44-52.) Thus, Runaldue teaches transferring a single pointer that merely stores an external memory location of frame data. This is not the same as transferring a plurality of pointers to establish a linked list. Therefore, Runaldue cannot disclose "*establishing a linked list by transferring the plurality of pointers to a second memory having a second memory access time*" as claimed by Applicant in claim 46.

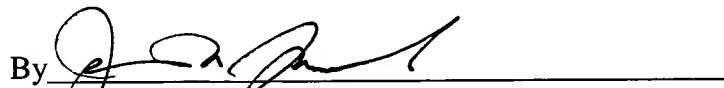
Thus, Runaldue does not imply, suggest or otherwise make obvious the claimed process as claimed in independent claim 46 (*establishing a linked list by transferring the plurality of pointers to a second memory having a second memory access time*). Accordingly, claim 46 is believed to be in condition for allowance. Since claims 47-62 depend from independent claim 46, they too are in condition for allowance by way of their dependency. Acceptance is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims (Claims 46-62) are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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